(6) ALC DTP

(7) DEVSTAR (WP)

(8) BISCRIPTS (WP)

(9) HINDI BUSYWRITER

(10) DEVNAGRI (WP)

(11) AALEKH (WP)

*WP—Word Processing Packages

**DTP— Desk Top Publishing Packages

[*Translation*] 245

Non-Payment of Pension

2100. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from the pensioners regarding non-payment of pension during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the number of complaints which have been disposed of; and

(c) the number of complaints pending and the time by which these will be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. With a view to minimising delay in sanction of pensions, instructions were issued in January, 1987 making Heads of Departments/Offices accountable for strict compliance of the Government Orders for ensuring authorisation of pension and gratuity-- provisional of final--by the date of retirement on superannuation. The retiring employees who did not receive Pension Payment Order by the date of retirement were advised to bring such cases to the notice of this Ministry. The number of complaints received in this Ministry during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 and their present status is as follows:—

Year	*No. of complaints received*	*No. of complaints since settled*	*No. of complaints still pending final disposal*
1989—90	52	51	1
1990—91	18	9	9

The concerned authorities have been directed at appropriate level to ensure immediate settlement of pending cases.

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Employment Avenues Generated under Rural Development Schemes

2101. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment avenues generated under various schemes sponsored by the Union Government in the rural areas of Orissa since January, 1990; and

(b) the steps taken to increase employment avenues under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The number of employment avenues generated since January, 1990 in Orissa under major poverty alleviation programmes of Government of India, viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are as under:—

(i) Emploment Generated under RY (Up to May, 1991) 400·41 (lakh mandays).

(ii) No. of poor families assisted under IRDP. (Upto June, 1991) 2·48(Lakh Nos.)

(b) For increasing the employment opportunities in rural areas in Orissa, Government of India have considerably increased the allocation of resources under rural employment programme, i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana from 68.44 crores during 1988-89 to Rs. 126.56 crores during 1989-90 and further to Rs. 130.95 crores during 1990-91.

[*English*]

Continuance of English as a Compulsory Subject

2102. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations against the continuance of English as a compulsory subject in the Indian Forest Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The UPSC set up an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Satish Chandra, ex-Chairman, UGC, to examine among other things the question relating to discontinuance of the compulsory paper in English in certain examinations held by the UPSC. This Committee has submitted its report which is under detailed examination.

[*English*]

Price of Cement

2103. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the price per bag of portland cement in different regions of the country in July 1989, 1990 and 1991;

(b) the reasons for the sharp escalation in cement prices during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the formation of a cartel by leading cement manufacturers of the country and price fixing arrangements between them; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The retail price per 50 Kg. bag of Portland Cement prevailing at four metropolitan cities of India at the end of July, 1989 July 1990 & July 1991 is given below:—

Figures in rupees

	July, 1989	*July*, 1990	*July*, 1991
Delhi	69-71	92-95	110-115
Calcutta	68-75	85-92	113-123
Bombay	70-74	90-95	105-120
Madras	66-70	84-87	97-102

(b) The main reasons for escalation in cement prices during the last two years are as under:—

(i) Regional imbalances in demand and availability of cement.

(ii) Rising input and distribution costs.

(iii) Localised infrastructure and production constraints.

(c) and (d) The Director General (Investigation & Registration) had filed an application before the MRTP Commission alleging restrictive trade practices by some cement manufacturers.